THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

External Publicity on Kashmir Issue

1235. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the external publicity being made by India on Kashmir issue has not proved as effective as that of Pakistan as far as influencing of other countries is concerned, particularly Islamic countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have sent any delegations abroad in this regard; and

(d) if so, the countries that were visited by these delegations alongwith the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have not sent any delegations exclusively for this purpose, but most Government delegations visiting abroad utilise the opportunity to brief their foreign interlocutors about Kashmir in addition to discussing other issues of mutual interest. The delegations apprise the concerned Governments and other individuals and organisations who shape opinion and influence decisions, including the mass media, of the factual position on the Kashmir issue, as well as details of Pak sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, and the realities of the ground situation in the State. There is appreciation of Government of India's position, policy of transparency and determination to ensure that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are able to enjoy the benefits of a secular, representative democratic polity, as well as appreciation for holding elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

Visa to NRI

1236. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Gujarati NRIs after marriage with Indian girls are facing difficulty in taking their newly married wives to America and other European countries due to visa problem; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up this issue with the U.S. Government for the issue of necessary visa in respect of the newly wedded couples?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No specific incident of Gujarati NRIs' spouses facing difficulty in obtaining visas for America and other European countries has come to our notice. As per US Immigration Law, all spouse cases for permanent residence in the US are processed separately for grant of visas by the US Embassy. This applies uniformly to spouses not only from all over India but from several other countries as well. Some West European countries take time to process visas for Indian spouses applying to join their husbands/wives.

(b) Since issue of visa is a matter of sovereign policy, Government of India cannot take this up but the Ministry of External Affairs does try to help when inordinate delays are brought to its notice.

US Pressure on Indo-Russian Nuclear Deal

1237. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news reports regarding US pressure on Indo-Russian nuclear deal; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Government have seen reports in the media concerning US pressure on Russian as regards the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. There has been no change in the Russian attitude towards the Kudankulam Project.

Issues raised by India at the WEF, Davos

1238. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues put forward by India at the World Economic Forum that was held recently at Davos and the response to each of these issues;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also held separate meetings with other heads of Governments; and

(c) if so, the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The purpose of India's presence at the World Economic Forum at Davos recently was not to raise "issues" but to inform the participating corporate leaders and others that:—

The economic reforms initiated in India based on national consensus would continue;

India offers excellent opportunities for forging partnership through investments, technology transfers, joint ventures and trade on a mutually beneficial basis;

Partnership between the developed economies and less developed economies based on mutual benefits essential for economic progress across the globe;

Asia pacific is an emerging region of the 21st century and would be a driving force of the global economy in future;

The need of the poorer sections of our society and investment in the social sectors would continue to receive special focus;

New Policy measures and further reforms particularly in the area of infrastructure would receive special attention.

The response from corporate leaders and the business community was positive.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister had separate bilateral meetings with the Heads of State/Governments of Russia, Cambodia, Israel and Egypt. Ministers from Switzerland and the UK also called on our PM, PM also met several Corporate leaders and media persons separately.

These meetings were productive. Discussions focussed mainly on furthering bilateral economic and commercial cooperation and foreign investments.

Reviewing India's Foreign Policy

1239. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the present linkages of economic policy along with foreign affairs, Government propose to revise the Foreign Policy towards China, USA, Russia, Pakistan and other countries with which India wants to extend cordial relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to revise its foreign policy *vis-a-vis* Economic Policy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) The liberalisation of economy and efforts to integrate it with the global economy have opened up a range of possibilities and have offered new forms of beneficial association with countries abroad. The principal objective of the Government's foreign policy is to extend a hand of friendship to all the countries of the world and to develop friendly and mutually beneficial relationship with them.